Bobby Waddell attends national conference

Bobby K. Waddell, vocational agriculture teacher at Appomattox County High school attended the National Vocational Agricultural Teacher's Association (NVATA) Regional Leadership Conference at Sturbridge, Mass. on May 18 and 19. He joined 100 vocational educators in agriculture to discuss issues and concerns confronting the profession. Vocational agriculture teachers from 12 state NVATA affiliated state associations participated in the two-day conference.

Six conferences are scheduled in 1984 to develop professional leadership, acquaint state association leaders with responsibilities related to the national organization, discuss mutual problems facing agricultural education, give direction to the NVATA.

The conferences include workshops on Quality Education, State/Federal Legislation, Agriculture/Agribusiness Relations and Membership Development.

Bobby was one of the two agricultural educators representing Virginia VATA at the conference. He is currently serving as president-elect for the state association.

The Massachusetts Vocational Agriculture Teacher's Association served as local host and arranged for meeting facilities, special functions and educational tours. The meeting was conducted by Carroll Shry, NVATA region vice president. He teaches vocational agriculture at Frederick County Vo. Tech. Center in Frederick, Maryland. Walt Shu, NVATA President-elect, Bow, Washington attended the conference and served as the professional consultant.

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For $124,331

Supervisors accept courthouse contract

The Appomattox County Board of Supervisors Friday accepted a bid from J. E. Jamerson and Sons,Inc., for additions and remodeling of the Appomattox Court House at a cost of $124,331. Work got underway on Monday of this week.

Appomattox County School Division Superintendent Lloyd Walton presented blueprints for the remodeling of the Vo-Ag building at the Appomattox Middle School.

"The work will be handled in four phases," said Walton. "However, the fourth phase is just a dream for the future, so we are really talking about three phases of work."

Phase one calls for replacement of the old boiler that is now servicing all buildings, the vo-ag the county library and the guidance department at the Appomattox Middle School.

Phase two calls for replacing the roof of the vo-ag building and adding insulation. Phase three is the closing and replacing of windows in the facility, some new lighting and general refurbushing of the existing facility. The cost is estimated at $100,000. to $125,000. This does not include phase four.

"The committee who made the study of the needs of the building did a little dreaming and included some plans for the future but the plans for phase four are not included in the estimate," Walton said.

Renovation at the Appomattox Primary School has been completed and work at the Appomattox Elementary School is nearing completion.

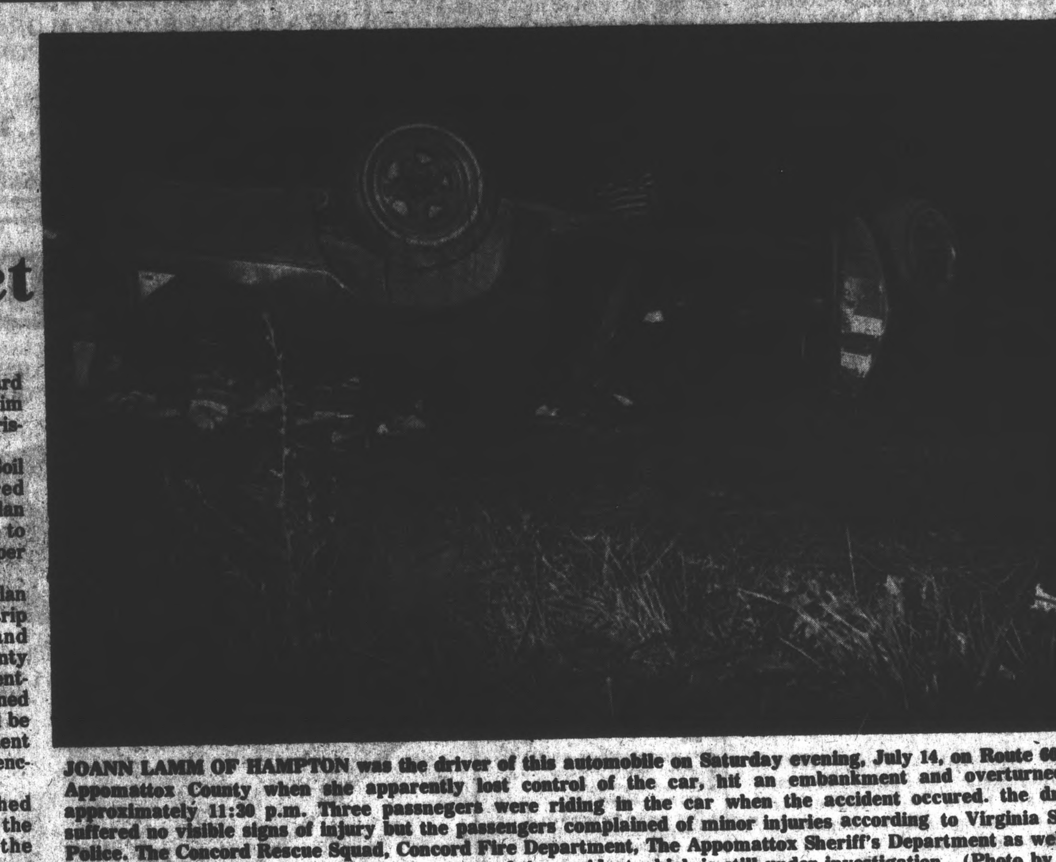
In other business the board approved the appointment of Jim Williams to replace Patrick Harrison on the Planning Commission.

Robert McClenny, Jr. of the Soil Conservation Service appeared before the board presenting a plan by the Soil Conservation Service to prevent soil erosion in the Upper Appomattox Watershed.

The board endorsed the plan which calls for the use of strip cropping, grass planting, and conservation tillage. No county money is involved in the implementing of the plan. McClenny explained that the cost of the program will be born by the agriculture department and landowners who are experiencing problems with erosion.

The Appomattox Watershed begins at the headwaters of the Appomattox River above the National Historic Park and runs through the towns of Appomattox, Farmville and Pamplin. The watershed drains Appomattox, Buckingham, Prince Edward and Cumberland Counties.

At least 80 percent of the watershed's landowners with erosion problems must agree to participate before any work can begin. If they do participate they will have to pay a certain percentage of the cost of the conservation techniques used on their property. If trees or grass are planted to prevent runoff, the landowner would pay 25 percent of the cost and the Soil Conservation Service would pay the balance.



JOANN LAMM OF HAMPTON was the driver of this automobile on Saturday evening, July 14, on Route 608 in Appomattox County when she apparently lost control of the car, hit an embankment and overturned at approximately 11:30 p.m. Three passenegers were riding in the car when the accident occured. the driver suffered no visible signs of injury but the passengers complained of minor injuries according to Virginia State Police. The Concord Rescue Squad, Concord Fire Department, The Appomattox Sheriff's Department as well as Virginia State Police were called to the scene of the accident which is still under investigation . (Photo by Jeff Spitzer)

State youth tourney slated here

The 1984 Dixie Youth League Majors (ages 17 and 18) state tournament will be played at the Appomattox Town Ball Park off Route 460 starting this Saturday, July 23.

Five teams from across the Old Dominion will compete in the double-elimination tournament.

Madison Heights will play Nottoway Saturday at 5 p.m. Appomattox will play Mount Vernon in the second game, shortly after the conclusion of the first game.

Franklin County's team will receive a bye in the first round of the tournament.

There will be two games Sunday, with the first starting at 2 p.m., and there will be two games Monday, with the first starting at 6 p.m. Single games will be played on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The admission charge for tournament games is $2 for adults,

State honors John B. Pierce

By FRANCES ABBITT

John B. Pierce, the Hampton Institute educator who became Virginia's first Negro extension agent in 1906, was honored June 11 when a highway historical marker was unveiled on the edge of the Hampton Institute campus at the intersection of Tyler Street and Emancipation Drive.

The late Mr. Pierce was the father of Mrs. Harriette Pierce James, guidance counselor at Appomattox County High School. Other living children include William M. Pierce, retired senior vice president and business development officer of Union National Bank in Little Rock, Ark.; and Charles I. Pierce, retired superintendent of water control for Philadelphia, Pa.

Presentation of the marker was made by Mrs. Margaret Peters, marker coordinator for the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.

Pierce was born in Greenville, Ala. in 1875 and grew up in a family where education was important. He attended Tuskegee Institute and completed a course in brick masonry. He received a degree from Hampton Institute.

Pierce's mother "always took local school teachers to board in our home so that her children might get the added touch of better training," he wrote in an article for **Extension Service Review** in 1942. When Booker Washington visited Pierce's hometown, he stopped at the Pierce home.

Pierce's parents, favorably impressed with Washington, sent their son to Tuskegee. It was here he worked as a brickmason, a trade he learned from his father while he studied. He helped build a small church, Phelps Hall, Thrasher Hall, and other small structures on the campus. Later, he worked as a brickmason for a short time in Raleigh, N.C.

Although successful as a brickmason, Pierce's first concern was agriculture and the plight of black farmers. In 1898 he went to study agriculture at Hampton Institute, joining the faculty to teach biology after he finished the graduate program in 1902. His intense interest in agriculture led him to accept the position of extension agen with the United States Department of Agriculture in 1906. Working for S.A. Knapp, the founder of the extension service, as well as Hampton Institute, Pierce went to Gloucester County to demonstrate new farming techniques, to be the first black extension agent in Virginia.

Pierce devoted his 35-year career to teaching black farmers not only in Virginia but in a nine-state region of the upper South.

In an article appearing in Extension Service Review, Pierce described his vision of "A day when the lowest-income farmers in America could live at home, educate their children in nearby training schools and build for themselves a satisfying farm life."

His techniques to do this were that of Knapp's for the newly developing extension organization. [illegible] school, a covered wagon that moved from community to community with lectures and demonstrations. Another was the establishment of community organizations where farmers and farm families would come together with volunteer leaders to learn new techinques for farming. Another was to encourage young boys through club work; still another was the development of the farming community of Lummis, in what is now the city of Suffolk.

His responsibilities grew from serving as agent in Gloucester County to supervising agents working in three counties, Gloucester, Mecklenburg, and Nottoway. In 1911 he was made district agent for Negro demonstration work in Virginia and the Carolinas. By 1936 his responsibilities had expanded to directing agents in Virginia, North and South Carolina, West Virginia, Kentucky, Maryland, Tennessee, Arkansas and Missouri.

Getting people involved was part of his philosophy. Programs were

[Continued on page 2]

THE LATE JOHN BAPTIST PIERCE educator, was honored as first Negro farm demonstration agent for Virginia when this marker was erected on edge of Campus of Hampton Institute. Pierce is the father of Mrs.Harriette James of Appomattox.

THE CONCORD RURITAN Club and the Con-Terra Woman's Club have high hopes of reaching their goal of 80 units of blood when the Bloodmobile visits Calvary Baptist Church in Concord on July 23 from 12 noon to 6 p.m. Helping get the goal up is Bobby Moore, (background), using crane to lift Cecil Jones (in basket) of the Ruritan Club to be first donor. Con-Terra members pictured are (left to right) Anne Giles, Pat Wariner, and Carolyn Franklin. (Photo by Jeff Spitzer)

Father Darkleaf

By CALVIN ROBINSON

Greetings on the start of yet another warm weather week. Nice shower helped. Just to keep in practice, I cut the grass Saturday. At one point saw a tiny bird lost in the grass. Too young to fly. Barely able to hop. I guided the youngster to a cool spot and fetched a cup of water. No way the little'un could have reached the windowside bird feeder. Must have been exciting to a nearby squirrel. Kept running up and down a tree.

Friday, the thirteenth passed quietly. I did note that the New York Yankees won a doubleheader ball game on the thirteenth. First game by a margin of six runs, the second by a margin of seven runs, adding to a 13-run margin on the 13th.

How many keys do you carry? Just emptied my pockets, and had eight keys. Front door, basement door, two car keys, Post Office box, etc. Asked some friends how many keys they were carrying at the moment. One said none; car key was in the car and maybe his wife had a house key. If you lock doors, it is smart to know where an extra key is hidden away.

Observed: two tiny pet dogs on Oakleigh Street. Easy to tell that they knew they were cute.

A very old and very large tree has been cut and dismembered in the churchyard at Appomattox C. H. Presbyterian Church. Often such trees have a hollow center and you cannot count age rings. But a guess of a hundred years sounds reasonable.

So much to see, so much to do in Virginia. Ash Lawn Summer Festival, near Charlottesville. Boat trips from Richmond to Baltimore this week-end. Summer Festival this week-end at Clarksville. Pork, Pine and Peanut Festival at Chippokes Plantation State Park. Virginia Cantaloupe Festival, South Boston, July 25. And a big one, the Pony Penning and Auction at Chincoteague Island, July 25-27. Look for a record attendance at this one. Shennandoah Valley Music Festival, Orkney Springs, July 26-28. Blue Ridge Draft Horse and Mule Show, Ferrum, July 28. 11th Annual Virginia Scottish Games, Alexandria July 28-29. Virginia Highlands Festival, Abingdon, July 28 - August 12. And another big Railroad Festival, Appomattox, October 13 & 14.

Thanks for reading and seeya around Growing Appomattox.

Local girl fulfilling dream

By BILL SHERROD

Sherry Brown is fulfilling a lifelong ambition, and making a little bit of Central Virginia history in the process.

Sherry, the daughter of the Rev. Edmond M. (Butch) and Peggy Terry of Evergreen, has been working for the Campbell County Sheriff's Department since May 15. On July 1, she was promoted to patrolman, making her the first female patrolman Campbell County's Sheriff's Department has had.

"I've always been interested in police work," says Sherry, a native of Lafayette, Indiana, who moved to Evergreen in 1973.

She first got involved in police work in 1981, three years after graduating from Appomattox County High School.

"I was hired by the Appomattox County Sheriff's Department to serve as a matron," she says. Matron handle female prisoners at the Appomattox County jail. In addition, Sherry handled dispatch work while employed in Appomattox.

While working at Appomattox, also, she met her husband, Jeff Brown, who at the time was a trooper with the Virginia State Police. Brown accepted a position as investigator with the Campbell County Sheriff's Department in February of 1984. They got married the first of June two weeks after Sherry joined Jeff as an employee of the Campbell County Sheriff's Department.

Becoming a full-fledged patrolman won't be easy for Sherry. She must complete 12 weeks of basic training, which will include studies in law and self defense, as well as vigorous physical training.

In addition she will have to enroll as a student at Central Virginia Community College to study police science.

"In basic training, women have to satisfy the same requirements as men, both physical and mental," notes Jeff.

"I'm not trying to match up to anybody," Sherry notes. "I know men are physically stronger than women. But there are times when a woman can handle certain situations better than men, and I feel that I can be of value to the sheriff's department from that perspective"

Sherry says she "takes a lot of ribbing" from her co-workers about her femininity, but "It's all in fun. The guys all help me out as much as they can."

One might initially wonder if Jeff and Sherry's being together at work and at home could create problems, but as Jeff notes, "We don't really work together. I work mostly days while she'll be working three shifts."

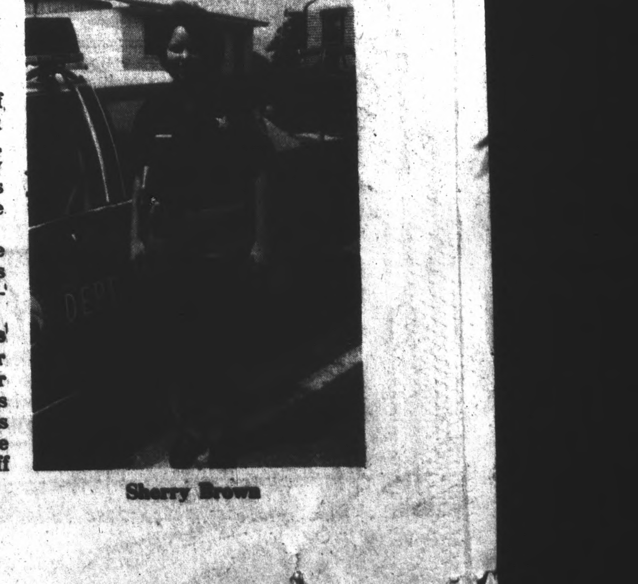
And, Jeff adds, the fact that he and Sherry are both police officers will give them a better understanding of each other's problems.

"A lot of policemen have problems in their marriages because their wives don't understand why their husbands have to work the hours they do or the stress and problems related to the job. Obviously, we won't have these problems," Jeff notes.

There is, of course, an element of danger in any police work. Sherry notes that "My father and stepmother worry about the possibility of my getting in a dangerous situation, but they don't know this is what I've always wanted to do, and they're happy for me."

Her husband feels the same way. "She'll be riding with experienced officers until the school starts, and after she completes her training, she'll be riding by herself."

"I'll be concerned for her - there are risks any police officer has to take. But, this is something she really wants to do, so I'm supporting her one hundred percent."



Sherry Brown

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